

My aunt, uncle and two rare hawkmoths

In late July or August 1953, my Uncle Tom's wife saw a large, dark-green hawkmoth on a greengrocer's shop window in Stoke Newington, north London. She ran off to fetch a receptacle to put it in but on her return it had gone.

I showed her pictures of a Lime Hawkmoth *Mimas tiliae* Linn. but she observed “. . . larger and darker green”; on showing her a picture of an Oleander Hawkmoth *Daphnis nerii* Linn. her immediate reaction was “that was it . . .”. Many years later I was interested to note that in B.F. Skinner's *Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles* it is mentioned that “. . . the maximum reported was 13 in 1953”. Plant (1993, *Larger Moths of the London Area*. LNHS) lists two other London records for this species in 1953, from Earls Court and South Kensington, both during July.

On 20 July 1995 Uncle Tom was in his garden at Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex; towards dusk he went over to the hedge to investigate a strange humming noise and found an Oleander Hawkmoth vibrating its wings, prior to evening flight. Uncle Tom is a good general naturalist and, like my father, has for a long time been interested in Lepidoptera.

Has anyone else an aunt and uncle who separately have seen British Oleander Hawkmoths!?!—MICHAEL BRITTON, 38 Meadlands, York YO3 0PB.

Possible second brood in *Erebia palarica* Chapman 1905 (Lep.: Satyridae)

Higgins and Riley (*A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain and Europe*, 4th Edition, 1980) give the flight period for Chapman's Ringlet *Erebia palarica* Chapman 1905 as “End June/July” and in some localities the main flight frequently occurs in late July. On 6.ix.1987 my parents caught three specimens of this butterfly on roadside heathland at an altitude of 1400 metres near Cofinal in the Picos de Europa of the Cantabrian Mountains (Leon Province, Northern Spain). The weather conditions were recorded as hot and sunny with no cloud and a light wind. These specimens, in good condition, seem to indicate that this species possibly has a second brood. Earlier in the summer the weather in the Picos de Europa had been very hot with very low snow levels, but interspersed with prolonged periods of rain and mist. However, no European *Erebia* species has been known to produce a second brood in the wild and local microclimates can result in delayed or protracted emergences. On the other hand, how many collectors wander around in the mountains this late in the season?!—MARTIN ELLIS, 14 Great Ostry, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5TT.